

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 02026 160625Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 COME-00 XMB-04 TRSE-00 /061 W

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O 160426Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 077

INFO DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 2026

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJECT: GOH INVESTIGATING COMMISSION'S REPORT

1. AT 7:30 PM MAY 15 THE GOH INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE PRESENTED ITS REPORT ON THE UB BRIBERY SCANDAL TO THE HONDURAN PEOPLE VIA A NATIONAL RADIO AND TELEVISION NET. THE ONE HOUR REPORT WAS READ BY COMMISSION COORDINATOR JORGE ARTURO REINA.

2. AFTER PRESENTING A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES, REINA PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS:

A. UNITED BRANDS BRIBED AT LEAST ONE GOH OFFICIAL FOR \$2.5 MILLION (ONE HALF OF WHICH WAS PAID;)

B. UNITED BRANDS OFFENDED THE DIGNITY OF THE COUNTRY AND BROKE HONDURAN LAW;

C. THE INITIATIVE OF THE BRIBE CAME FROM UNITED BRANDS;

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PAGE 02 TEGUCI 02026 160625Z

D. IT IS REASONABLE TO BELIEVE THE BRIBE WAS

PAID TO SECURE AN EXTENSION OF THE COMPANY'S CONCESSIONS AS WELL AS A REDUCTION OF THE BANANA EXPORT TAX;

E. FORMER MINECON BENNATON IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HAVING NEGOTIATED AND RECEIVED THE UB BRIBE AND FOR HAVING IMPEDED THE COMMISSION'S INVESTIGATION;

F. THE SEC AND UNITED BRANDS AGREE THAT LOPEZ WAS ORIGINALLY OFFERED THE BRIBE. THE COMMISSION COULD NOT PROVE IF LOPEZ WAS BRIBED BECAUSE OF HIS REFUSAL TO GIVE THE COMMISSION HIS POWER OF ATTORNEY AND BECAUSE OF BENNATON'S SPECIFIC REFUSAL TO GIVE AUTHORITY TO EXAMINE HUC SWISS ACCOUNTS;

G. IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO KNOW WHO FINALLY RECEIVED THE MONEY IF LOPEZ AND BENNATON GIVE POWERS OF ATTORNEY.

3. THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOH BEGIN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IMMEDIATELY AGAINST BENNATON AND UNITED BRANDS.

4. THE COMMISSION REPORT MENTIONED NO OTHER GOH OFFICIALS AS BEING UNDER SUSPICION.

5. IN THE TEXT OF HIS SPEECH REINA SAID THAT THE SWISS BANK WOULD PROVIDE ACCOUNT INFORMATION WITH EITHER A POWER OF ATTORNEY OR AS EVIDENCE IN A CRIMINAL CASE.
SANCHEZ

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